



**Young Carers Policy**  
**October 2024**

Walbottle Primary School is committed to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve in their education and to aspire in education as people regardless of complexities of needs and home circumstances.

This policy explains how we will live up to our commitment

### **Definition**

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult. They can be caring for any of the following-

1. Parent/guardian or sibling suffering from mental health issues
2. Parent/guardian or sibling with a physical disability
3. Parent/guardian or sibling with substance misuse problems
4. Parent/guardian or sibling with learning disabilities
5. Parent /guardian or sibling with a terminal illness

### **Young Carers and the effects on their education**

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

1. Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
2. Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school/college
3. Emotional distress
4. Tiredness in school/college
5. Lack of time for homework
6. Poor attainment
7. Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
8. False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
9. Behavioural problems (taking out their anger and frustration)
10. Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
11. Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
12. Limited social skills
13. Bullying
14. Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
15. Low self esteem

All staff at school will at all times be flexible with regards to young carers and their issues upholding confidentiality.

All staff at school acknowledge that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.

Walbottle Primary School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.

Walbottle Primary School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.

Walbottle Primary School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home.

Walbottle Primary School will be flexible and accommodating with deadlines for homework

Arrangements will be made for work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis)  
N.B This needs to be agreed with young carer and must have a set time limit.

Walbottle Primary School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.

Walbottle Primary School will provide alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.

Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability. (Following safe guarding procedures at all times).

Walbottle Primary School will always report any cases of a child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern for their safety, in line with guidance as set out in the Safeguarding policy.

Mrs Alison Oliver Head Teacher  
October 2024